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SHANNA SCHMIDT NUMISMATICS INC

Newsletter #224:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello from frigid cold Chicago. I'm looking at a frozen Lake Michigan and already dreaming of the warmer weather to come. I try to remember that having seasons are a good thing! After a very long and productive week at the New York International Coin Fair, it wasn't such a horrible thing to curl up on the couch and stay inside for a few days. Alas, the fun is not over yet. There are plenty more auctions coming up and a trade show as well.

ANA National Money Show in Atlanta (Feb 27 - March 1)
I used regularly attend this show as a former board member of the ANA. It is the smaller of the two conventions that the American Numismatic Association holds over the course of the year. Additionally, I also found it to be slanted towards the U.S. coin buyer rather than ancient or world. I'll be attending this show with my assistant Tyler, my inventory, as well as the inventory from NAC USA. Please come by if you plan to attend! Of course I'm happy to look at consignments as well if you are interested in consigning in the NAC Zurich sales.

As for the World's Fair of Money, I'm not planning to attend the ANA summer convention in Oklahoma City. Let me explain quickly why I will not attend the OK city, the larger of the two shows. Most of you that know me understand this but since this newsletter is my little platform, I'll let you all know again. This is the one place where I can say what I really feel. I try very hard not to offend anyone but by saying this I really don't think I will (unless you are from OK City or just absolutely love it there).

I love my business, both from an academic, collecting and sales perspective. I realized years ago that the ancient/world collectors/dealers were a very niche group within an already niche group of coin collectors. For this reason, and this reason alone, I decided to run for the board of governors for the ANA. This is a thankless, painful, headache-filled job that at times I thought might drive me to the brink of insanity. I don't regret my decision to spend four years working on the board. I accomplished a lot while there and learned about how to make things happen. I bridged a gap between the ANA and the ANS that was broken over several years for reasons still not entirely understood by many, I created awareness that there were important dealers in the ancients/world area and brought a new column (Ursula Kampmann's wonderful addition) to the Numismatist. I did some other things but these were my biggest achievements in my mind. What I failed at miserably was to persuade my fellow board members that in order to continue to have a thriving and bustling bourse, we needed to have the show "anchored" in one or two cities so we could build relationships with vendors and long term contracts. We also needed to be in cities that were "hubs", meaning that they were easily accessible to places from all over this country, as well other countries. The key word here is OTHER. This is where I lost my fellow board members. At some point, I was accused of being interested only in my international friends and that the show should

Friends, I want to tell you what I know to be important. We need to recognize that making our conventions easy to get to is very important. We can not put a major trade show in a place like OK City where it is very difficult to get to for many people. We need a place where you should be able to fly in from most major U.S. locations and at least one or two major international locations like Frankfurt or London. We need to recognize that dealers that are coming from overseas shouldn't be subjected to two or three layovers especially when they are bringing their material over. It is actually unsafe and a security risk. We also want to keep the show a World's Fair of Money and not just a U.S. Coin Show. At some point we will lose the interest of international dealers if we alienate them by putting the bourse in locations that are not at all convenient.

We also need to pick a location where there is some sort of nightlife or experience for the attendees if we want to continue to keep the ANA a family venue. I'm starting to wonder if we do. when the #1 thing to do on a Google search for things to do in Oklahoma City is going to the National Memorial and Museum in remembrance of the 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing, the most depressing and horrific event that I can ever imagine NOT wanting to recollect. I mean no disrespect to the Oklahomans truly, but the ANA really messed up by putting our annual convention there.

I've been attending ANA conventions since I was just out of the womb. I stopped for a few years of course during my education and early professional years in another field elsewhere, but otherwise I have been there. It pains me not to be there but it doesn't make sense to go when so many of my fellow dealers aren't able to make it due to the location. I stand united with them.

If you do decide to go I ask every single one of you to make a point to ask the current board members of the ANA to anchor the show in a good city, like Chicago for example, not Rosemont, IL. Let's make these conventions more than just about making a sale! They are a fun thing to do and make the hobby so much better.

Kolbe & Fanning Auction 172 (25 January)
Our good friends at K&F have an excellent sale coming up on January 25. There are 529 lots in this sale. There are some wonderful annotated important sales catalogs in this auction. For example, you have lot 41, the world famous opera singer Enrico Caruso, who also had a coin collection, had a posthumous sale in Naples in 1923 (Caruso died in 1921). This auction catalog is annotated in the margins with hammer prices and the buyer's name which is not typically found for most catalogs. Lot 292, is a great work on naval medals. The three volume work was written by Milford Haven, otherwise known as Louis Alexander Mountbatten. For those that think that name sounds familiar in popular culture, it is. Mountbatten was the surname of Prince Philip, husband to Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain. While of partial Greek descent, Philip also hailed from the Mountbatten family. Louis Alexander Mountbatten's son, Louis Francis Albert Victor Nicholas Mountbatten, 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma (or Lord Mountbatten) was Philip's maternal uncle. As described verbatim from the catalog, the object of this work is to describe and give the history of all medals which have been produced at different times to commemorate naval events and the deeds of seamen in war and peace. To this end all public and the principal private collections have been searched, and casts obtained of the rarer pieces. Lot 362 is another diamond in the rough. Sharps catalog of the Chetwynd Conder tokens. This is a very rare catalog of copper coins, token, medalets from Great Britain, Ireland and the colonies during the 18th and 19th centuries. There were up to 62 copies printed (it is not entirely certain on the number) and most were dedicated to their recipients. This copy was owned by John Robinson Esq. Lot 493 is a fascinating and highly relevant book for those that collect U.S. coins. Finding an original of this title is all but impossible, let alone a copy given by the author to the Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint, Joseph M. Kennedy (1806–1876). Lot 512 is an extremely impressive set of 38 volumes of American State papers from the U.S. Congress over a span of 30+ years. There are 10 different classes covered with finance being the one most relatable to numismatics. A work of amazing depth. There is so much more that is there. I'm a huge fan building a numismatic library. It is true that we are digitizing our library and can access most things online but having the book never fails to be an important part of our offices.

Künker Auction 418 at the World Money Fair in Berlin (29 January)

to attend this trade show, which I hear is something of an event. For the moment I'll just report on the wonderful offering from Künker. There are no ancient coins in this catalog but plenty for the world coin buyers. For those that are interested in learning more about the coins and not just looking at the pieces (which can be fun in and of itself), I highly recommend reaching out and getting a catalog from Künker or working with me and requesting one! Their catalogs tend to be bilingual in German and English and are truly educational. This catalog starts with a pretty detailed description of the Thirty Years' War and the Peace of Osnabrück and Münster. How fitting that Künker home offices are in Osnabrück. The first sentence starts even with the statement that it was the 375th anniversary of the conclusion of the so-called Peace of Westphalia in 2023, which was signed in those two very same cities. This important treaty is considered the foundation of modern Europe. Gives us another reason to visit Künker! The Thirty Years War was fought from 1618-1648 and began as many wars do with religious tensions. In this case it was between the Catholics and Protestants in Bohemia. Gradually it seeped throughout Europe and turned into one of the bloodiest wars on European soil.

The catalog is composed of 705 lots with the first part being dedicated to the Thirty Years War and the Freedom of Westphalia. The second collection is titled "Eines Deustchen Fabrikanten und Geshichtsfreundes, Teil 2" (A German Manufacturer and History Enthusiast, Part 2). The second part is a wonderful array of metals starting in Germany and continuing throughout the world ending in the United States with a gold eagle. The more time I look at world medals the more fascinated I become with them. They are several lots that caught my eye. I'll point out just a few. Lot 7 from a jewelry and numismatic perspective is incredibly interesting. It has a bezel so clearly could have been and likely was worn. It has some colored stones throughout. It has a lovely portrait of the royal Polish couple Sigismund III and Anna, 1587-1632. Lot 10, a 28 gram 8 Dukat from Danzig under Wladislaws IV (1632-1648). It has an incredible cityscape on the obverse with Jehovas name in the clouds in Hebrew above. The reverse shows a strong side portrait of the king holding a globus cruciger and sceptre. For a mere 150,000 Euros it could be yours. Lot 13 seems like it should be in a museum and actually was in a museum! It was for years in the United States and displayed in Baltimore at the Walters Art Gallery starting in 1948. After likely deaccessioning it ended up in a 1969 Sotheby's auction where it sold and started its private collection days. It was last in a 2012 Künker sale. It is a lovely work of art from Sweden under Gustav II (1612-1632). Lot 54 is 3 Reichstaler from 1629 with amazing detailed artisanship. The suit of armor to the right of the soldier is just fascinating. Lot 68 and 69, possibly due to the fact that having lived in Cologne, Germany it holds a special place in my heart. These two coins show the three wise men on the obverse on the coin. Back in 1164, the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick Barbarossa took the relics of the three wise men back to Cologne from Milan and gave them to the archbishop of Cologne. According to legend, their remains are said to be buried there as well. The imagery on these large coins is very impactful. Lot 78 looks almost like a fairy tale scene with the two angels high above the church depicted on the 1631 Four Dukat from Regensburg.

About halfway through the catalog, there are highlights from the medals and medallions section, the second part of the sale. They are lot 193, a 10 ducat gold metal from 1534. It was struck in Erzgebirge and has an incredibly detailed depiction of the Last Supper and a lamb, referring to the Easter holiday. Lot 305 is a medal that is known for well by many as a design by the famed artist Albrecht Dürer in 1521. It features a portrait of Charles V and is a rarity today as there exist very few examples. Very rarely do they come up on the market and often not in silver. Lot 417 is a wonderful medal in the classic Renaissance style. It features brothers, Stephan and Lorenz Schlick, who were counts. Their coins even had a specific name, Joachimsthal. Lot 353, is a silver medal which depicts the lovely and still existing Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna, Austria. Lot 650 is a rare 50 ducat in gold which was struck in 1828 upon the occasion of the peace treaty between Russia and the Ottoman Empire. There is a depiction of Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat. Lot 420 is an example of the Salvator medal, named for the reverse depicting Christ with a halo. Since 1575 the city of Vienna distributes these has New Year's gifts to the most important officials and dignitaries. This happens to be one of the rarest Salvator medals.

As a note: as much as I want to support my friends at Künker, please remember that any coins from Russia or China are subject to tariffs for U.S. citizens. I have heard

expensive. Please keep it in mind and maybe find an alternative country to ship to if it is a coin or medal you can not live without.

Harlan J. Berk Ltd. Buy or Bid Sale 230 (Closing 28 January)
I've been meaning to mention this as for quite sometime so apologies it has taken me so long. A wonderful academic and numismatic scholar, Mr. Curtis Clay, who happens to work for my father for many years, is selling his collection. I don't know when he started to do this and I typically don't feature Buy or Bid sales in my newsletter, and I prefer to keep family and business separate but here I will take exception. Curtis is an expert on the Severan Dynasty and so if you buy a coin from anyone in this area it might as well be from him, right? There are a lot of academic types within but also some nice rarities. In addition to the expected Septimius Severus there were also a few Pescennius Niger and several Clodius Albinus being offered. Both of which are scarce to very rare. If you do a search in their Buy or Bid sale on Curtis Clay the coins from his collection will come up. Perhaps you will find something else there as well. I still know the ins and outs of the HJB business so if you have questions don't hesitate to ask. Free advice!

Coin of the week

Braunschweig-Wolfenbüttel, Fürstentum. wc1289cch Ulrich, Duke of Wolfenbüttel, c. 1613-1634 AD. Zellerfeld, c. 1620 AD

AR 5 Reichstaler, 146.17g (83mm, 2h).
Mint master Hans Laffers. - The armored duke riding r. with a high hat and flowing cloak, holding baton in r. hand / (mint mark lily) helmeted coat of arms, on each side a wild man with a tree trunk, below a cartouche with punched value number.

Pedigree: Ex Fritz Rudolf Künker 64, Osnabrück 2001, lot 4316

References: Davenport 45. Duve 6. Welter 1015. Preussag Collection (Auktion London Coin Galleries/Künker 1) 27

Grade: Lovely toned example with minor marks, otherwise EF

Price: $27500

wc1289c

While issued by Freidrich Ulrich of Braunschweig-Wolfenbüttel, this multiple 5 Reichstaler was struck at the Zellerfeld mint under the auspices of Mintmaster Hans Lauffer. It was opened in 1600 to facilitate the coining of the mass quantities of silver mined nearby in Harzpotentially great grandsons (depending on how the generational lines fall) were also mint masters! Wolf was born in 1554 and the last Lauffer passed in 1709. Interestingly, Hans is perhaps better known for the numerous copper jeton's that the Zellerfeld mint issued during his tenure. In fact, when this Löser was struck in 1620, the mint had only been operating for around 20 years. It was opened in 1600 to facilitate the coining of the mass quantities of silver mined nearby in Harz, this mint became quite skilled at issuing large format silver coins.

Coin on my website

If you are interested in any other coins I have to offer please visit my website: shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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